

## Commerce, Insurance and Economic Development Task Force Speaker Biographies

46<sup>th</sup> ALEC Annual Meeting | Austin, TX  
August 14, 2019

### Representative Jeff Weninger Arizona Legislature



Representative Jeff Weninger is serving his third term representing Arizona Legislative District 17.

Before serving as a State Representative, Jeff served on the Chandler City Council for eight years and held the position of Vice Mayor.

In the Arizona Legislature, Representative Weninger is Chairman of the Commerce Committee. He has been the prime sponsor of many bills that have moved the needle for Arizona businesses and entrepreneurs through needed regulatory reform. Some of those bills include:

1. Crowdfunding.
2. A pathway for expedited 5G small cell deployment.
3. Modernization of state statutes to bring blockchain, fintech and property technology to the forefront of the state's economic activities.
4. Regulatory changes to allow rocket launches for the deployment of satellites.

**Lee McGrath**  
**Senior Legislative Counsel and Managing Attorney**  
**Institute for Justice**



Lee McGrath is the Managing Attorney of the Institute for Justice Minnesota office and serves as IJ's Senior Legislative Counsel. He joined the Institute in December 2004 and litigates cutting-edge constitutional cases protecting economic liberty, school choice, private property, freedom of speech and other individual liberties in both federal and state courts in Minnesota and nationally. *Minnesota Lawyer* recognized McGrath as one of 2006's "Up and Coming Attorneys."

Under his leadership, the Institute for Justice Minnesota has launched a successful campaign to restore economic liberty as a basic civil right under both the Minnesota State and U.S. Constitutions. IJ-MN successfully freed African hair braiders from the State of Minnesota's onerous cosmetology licensing regime, successfully stopped the government from enforcing a blanket ban on advertising, soliciting or using the Internet to conduct lawful, direct sales of wine, and forced the City of Red Wing to end its ban on interstate ship of trash. Lee was also instrumental in lobbying the Minnesota Legislature to reform its eminent domain laws in 2006 and deregulate intrastate household goods movers in 2008. Lee became IJ's legislative counsel in 2011 and has been instrumental in lobbying for greater economic liberty and reforms to forfeiture laws in states across the country.

Lee received his law degree from William Mitchell College of Law in Saint Paul where he was the president of the local Federalist Society chapter. Before that, Lee worked for more than 20 years in corporate finance at General Motors and other corporations. His last position was as Vice President and Treasurer of Jostens, the yearbook and ring company headquartered in Bloomington, Minnesota. In addition to his law degree, Lee holds an MBA in finance from the University of Chicago and a bachelor's degree from Georgetown University. Lee was also a Policy Fellow at the Humphrey Institute, University of Minnesota. Lee and his wife Bonnie have four children and live in Edina, Minnesota.

**Representative Ron Hood**  
**Ohio General Assembly**



State Representative Ron Hood is serving his 8<sup>th</sup> non-consecutive term in the Ohio House. Hood represents the 78th House District, which encompasses Hocking and Morgan counties, as well as portions of Athens, Fairfield, Muskingum and Pickaway counties. Representative Hood is member of the Commerce and Labor Committee, Community and Family Advancement Committee, Rules and Reference Committee, and State Government Committee. He has received numerous awards during his time in the House, including the Outstanding Conservative Freshman Legislator, the Frank Lausche Young Conservative Award, National Right to Work Legislator of the Year, National Association for Gun Rights Legislator of the Year, Faith to Action Braveheart Award and four Watchdog of the Treasury Awards. Representative Hood resides in Ashville with his wife, Michal. They have five children: Ellah, Edward,

Judah, Quinne and Wesley.



**David S. Arbuckle**  
**Vice President of External Affairs**  
**Texas Central**



David Arbuckle, serves as Vice President-External Affairs for Texas Central.

David helps to build the first, true high-speed train in America by reaching out to North Texas communities, elected officials and key stakeholders in raising awareness of the positive impact the railroad is having on transportation in Texas.

After more than three decades at AT&T, and two years of running a small business, David joined Texas Central in April of 2016.

David has led Chambers of Commerce, Work Force Boards, Educational endeavors, social betterment organizations and charitable entities. These efforts spanned a very wide spectrum of activities, but all centered on coordinating communities and colleagues to realize mutually beneficial outcomes for multiple and diverse constituencies.

David is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma and works in the Dallas Texas Central office.

**Jennifer Huddleston**  
**Research Fellow**  
**Mercatus Center**



Jennifer's research focuses on the intersection of emerging technology and law with a particular interest in the interactions between technology and the administrative state. Her work covers topics including judicial deference, liability protection for Internet platforms, autonomous vehicles and other disruptive transportation technologies, the regulation of data privacy, and the benefits of technology and innovation. Her work has appeared in *USA Today*, the *Chicago Tribune*, the *New York Daily News*, the *Sacramento Bee*, the *Washington Ti*, Real Clear Policy, and *U.S. News and World Report*. Jennifer has a JD from the University of Alabama School of Law and a BA in political science at Wellesley College. She is also an alumna of the Mercatus Center's Frédéric Bastiat Fellowship and the Charles Koch Institute's Koch Associate Program. Prior to law school, Jennifer was a Teach for America Corps Member in the Mississippi

Delta and worked for the Charles Koch Foundation.

**Senator Jack Tate**  
**Colorado General Assembly**



A career businessman, Senator Tate has been a Member of the Colorado General Assembly since 2015, serving as both Chair and Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Business, Labor, and Technology. He also serves on several other committees related to commerce and finance. The bulk of his legislation relates to economic development, finance, modernizing business regulations, and job creation.

Tate hails from Nashville, TN and now lives in Centennial, CO. He attended Duke University and graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Engineering. He continued his education at the University of Colorado attaining both a Master of Science in Finance as well as an MBA in Marketing. He has spent his 25-year business career in both sales and marketing management and corporate finance. He also has extensive experience in developing and evaluating projects related to capital investment and financial decision making.

**Andy Guggenheim**  
**Vice President and Senior Council**  
**American Bankers Association**



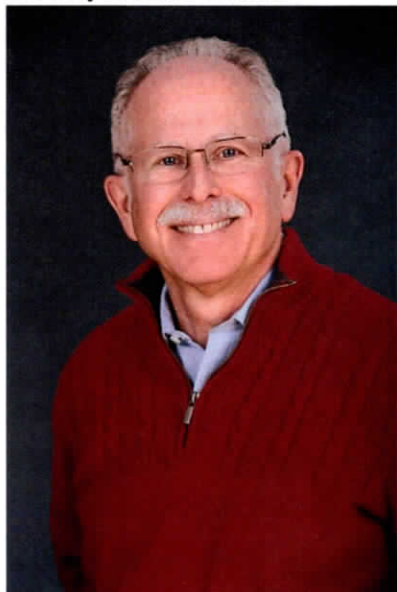
Andy Guggenheim currently serves as Senior Counsel for the American Bankers Association focusing on state legislative and uniform law issues. Guggenheim joined the ABA in June 2015 after working for the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Small Business, where he handled small business finance issues and oversight of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). Guggenheim has also held positions in the General Counsel's Office at the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC).

Before joining the EAC, Guggenheim served at the SBA as an Assistant Director in the Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs and as a Senior Advisor in the Office of Capital Access. Prior to working for the SBA, Guggenheim worked as a Legislative Assistant and Deputy Counsel for former U.S. Senator George Allen (VA). Andy has also held positions with General Electric, the New Jersey Attorney General's Office and the Connecticut State Senate.

Guggenheim earned his JD, from Quinnipiac University in Hamden, Connecticut and his Bachelor's degree in Communications and Political Science from Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts. He is a member of the New Jersey and Washington, DC Bar.



**Mark Janus**  
**Senior Fellow**  
**Liberty Justice Center**



Mark Janus is a Senior Fellow at the Liberty Justice Center, where he serves as an advocate and spokesperson for workers' rights. Mark spent the last 11 years of his career as a child support specialist for the Illinois state government, ensuring that children get all the resources to which they are entitled. It was during that time that Mark courageously took on one of the most powerful political forces in the country: the public employee unions.

Mark fought for his First Amendment rights – and the rights of more than 5 million other government workers – all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court with his case, *Janus v. AFSCME*. Mark's bravery resulted in the single greatest victory for First Amendment rights in a generation.

Over the years Mark had a career in both the private sector and in government. In the 1980s, he held a government job. He then left for a private company and returned to the public sector in 2007. That's when he learned that Illinois politicians had granted AFSCME — a politically powerful government union — the power to exclusively represent more than 90 percent of state workers in Illinois. This type of injustice went on for decades all across the country and affected millions of public workers. That is, until Mark stood up and fought to stop it.

Now, Mark serves as a leader spreading the message of worker freedom through his personal story. Mark has been and will continue to be a tremendous advocate for government workers.

**Vincent Vernuccio**  
**Senior Fellow**  
**Mackinac Center for Public Policy**



Vincent Vernuccio is a labor policy consultant and has advised a multitude of policy and grassroots organizations throughout the country. Vernuccio holds advisory positions with several organizations including senior fellow with the Mackinac Center, President of the Institute for the American Worker, senior fellow of labor policy with the Illinois Policy Institute and senior fellow with the Cardinal Institute, among others. He is a graduate of the Ave Maria School of Law in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Vernuccio served on the Department of Labor transition team for the Trump Administration and under President George W. Bush he served as special assistant to the assistant secretary for administration and management in the Department of Labor.

Vernuccio has published articles and op-eds in such newspapers and magazines as The Wall Street Journal, New York Times, Investor's Business Daily, The Washington Times, National Review, Forbes and The American Spectator. He has been cited in several books, and he has been a contributor on national television and radio shows, such as "Your World with Neil Cavuto" on Fox News and "Varney & Company" on Fox Business Network.

Vernuccio is a sought-after voice on labor panels nationally and in Washington, D.C.

He has advised senators and congressmen on a labor-related issues and testified before the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, Postal Service and Labor Policy.

**Erica Jedynek**  
**Director of Employment Initiatives**  
**Stand Together**



Mrs. Erica L. Jedynek is the Director of Employment Initiatives for Stand Together. As a social entrepreneur, she leads strategy to promote worker freedom and reduce barriers that prevent people from gaining meaningful employment. Jedynek is a national spokesperson for employment market issues and manages national and state-level education and policy reform campaigns.

Jedynek has been published in The Wall Street Journal and Forbes, and has appeared on Fox Business, NJ News 12, and Bold TV. She also serves as the NJ Private Sector Chair for ALEC and on the NJ State Advisory Committee for the U.S. Civil Rights Commission.

Jedynek previously led Americans for Prosperity-NJ as state director, where she was recognized as one of the NJ Globe's Top 100 Most Powerful People and received the Athena International Leadership Award. Jedynek was voted "Top Young Female Talent on the Right" by Save Jersey readers and named to InsiderNJ's Power 100 List and Top 100 Policymakers. Having served in numerous roles working for the state legislature and on the campaign trail, Jedynek has earned a reputation as a high energy, dynamic policy advisor and grassroots organizer.

Jedynek was also one of seven emerging state leaders selected as part of an exchange with Australia, through the American Council of Young Political Leaders.

Erica Jedynek holds a B.A. in Political Science, cum laude from Drew University. She studied at both the United Nations Headquarters in NYC and abroad at the Institute of Venice, Italy. She later earned a Mini-MPA from Rutgers University's Center for Executive Leadership in Government.



**Ashley Klingensmith**  
**Field Director**  
**Americans For Prosperity**



Ashley Sisca Klingensmith has been on staff with the Pennsylvania chapter of Americans for Prosperity (AFP) since May 2014.

She was born and raised in Pittsburgh, attended Denison University and immediately upon graduation in 2008, she started law school at Duquesne University, where she received her Juris Doctor in 2012. Ashley worked full time during law school for the Majority Whip of the Senate of Pennsylvania. In 2012, she was offered the position of Executive Director of a county republican committee, where she worked through the end of 2012 cycle. A candidate she met through her position, Keith Rothfus, won and became the U.S. Representative for Pennsylvania's 12th Congressional District. Keith offered her the first outreach position on his team. She split time between his Pittsburgh, Beaver, and Johnstown offices.

Beaver, and Johnstown offices.

During her first year working for Congressman Rothfus, Ashley was exposed to AFP and began working with the PA chapter as soon as the first field role was created. Throughout her 5-year tenure with AFP-PA, Ashley has served as Field Director, Senior Field Director, Grassroots Director and most recently serves as State Director. She has been deployed to Louisiana, Colorado, Missouri, Kentucky and each corner of the Commonwealth to participate in and manage both issue and political campaigns. Ashley was chosen as one of nine individuals of the inaugural class of "Champions" at Americans for Prosperity Foundation in December 2016. She was a graduate of the 2017 class of the Anne B. Anstine Excellence in Public Service Series.

Ashley resides in Pittsburgh with her husband, Robert, and German Shorthaired Pointer Burnley.